

CREATION

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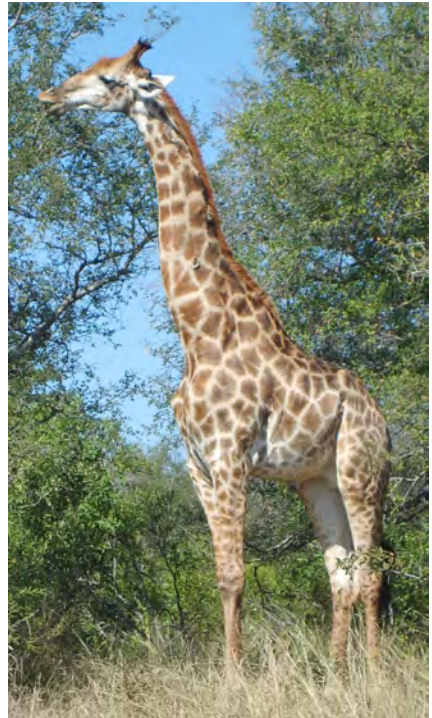


Journal of the CREATION SCIENCE MOVEMENT

Tall stories

Last year a theatrical group called Tall Stories gave a production at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe entitled, *How The Giraffe Got Its Neck*. The group said that its production had been "inspired by the stories of Rudyard Kipling and the discoveries of Charles Darwin" - a conflation of source materials that is possibly more profoundly apt than they realized.

More recently an article on the BBC News website (accessed 14 May 2009) reports on the continuing failure of evolutionary scientists to come up with any convincing explanation as to how the giraffe's elongated neck could have evolved. Kipling's story claimed that the giraffe simply kept stretching for the better, higher leaves; whereas according to the BBC article most evolutionists think that "the neck confers a feeding advantage, allowing the giraffe to reach leaves beyond more numerous smaller browsers". Advantage it might be, but this hardly helps explain how it developed. Nor does it explain why, if this is such a successful strategy, the giraffes are less numerous than the other browsers, who in any case seem to manage quite happily without having long necks.



The long neck of the giraffe has a specialised system of valves in its blood vessels to cope with the pressure changes that occur when it lowers or raises its neck. Image: K. du Plessis

The article reports on the findings of Prof Graham Mitchell of the University of Wyoming, USA, and Prof John Skinner and

Dr S. J. Van Sittert of the University of Pretoria, South Africa. They criticise existing presumptions by pointing out that “giraffes tend to prefer particular types of leaves rather than leaves at particular heights, suggesting that competition for different leaves may not have naturally selected strongly for longer necks”.

Other theories they scrutinised were that as giraffes were evolving longer legs to run away from predators, they needed to evolve longer necks in order to be able to reach to drink; and that the elaborately long necks evolved as a sexual signal. They dismiss both of these theories as lacking in experimental support and say, “Better explanations for neck elongation must be sought elsewhere”. CSM would be delighted to tell them about an excellent Book that elucidates the subject of the origins of animals and plants.

On 20 July 2009 Channel 4 TV broadcast a programme about dissecting a giraffe. Arch evolutionist Richard Dawkins participated in the show, which drew attention to the giraffe’s recurrent laryngeal nerve. The pathway of this nerve is paraded by evolutionists as an example of bad design - implying development through random evolution rather than by a Designer - and is particularly striking in the giraffe because of its elongated neck. When the nerve leaves the brain, instead of going directly to the larynx it travels down the neck to the chest where it loops around a lung ligament before going back up to the larynx. This seemingly unnecessary meandering gives it a total length of about 5 metres, whereas a more direct route would be substantially shorter.

It is quite extraordinary how evolutionists tend to disregard the many features in a

giraffe that clearly indicate excellent design in order to focus just on this one feature. These include the fact that the heart pumps at unusually high pressure in order to provide sufficient blood to the elevated head. The blood pressure has, however, to be carefully mediated because of the huge differences that occur when the head is lowered (as when the giraffe stoops to drink). A specialised system of valves in the blood vessels helps the giraffe to cope with these changes and is augmented by a special “spongy reservoir”, called the rete mirabile. Furthermore the giraffe’s skin is unusually thick and tight, acting like a pressure bandage to prevent blood from seeping through the vessels in the lower parts of the limbs on account of the high pressure. The long neck of the giraffe is also connected with the thorax in an unusual configuration which, it is thought, helps cantilever the neck to facilitate movement in a very broad range of angles and heights.

What then of this so-called bad design of the laryngeal nerve? Evolutionists compare its path with the much shorter path of what they think is the equivalent nerve in fish in order to arrive at their conclusions. But this is mere tendentiousness, as they presuppose an evolutionary development. In the past evolutionists have made claims of bad design about other organs, such as the tonsils (“useless leftovers”) and the eye (“the wrong way around”) but time and again more recent discoveries have shown their assumptions to be badly mistaken. On the basis of their track record thus far, one can be quietly confident that a similar situation will be found to prevail here too.

It is not as if evolutionists have a full understanding of the laryngeal nerve anyway. As an anatomist has pointed out, the laryngeal nerve is paired, but the two

parts take slightly different routes. In the giraffe this difference is great enough that the signals from the two parts should reach the larynx at different times, making it impossible for the giraffe to use its voicebox effectively. And yet it does, with no trouble at all. So scientists have a great deal to learn yet about the strangeness of the laryngeal nerve and the efficacy of its functions. A little humility is in order.

Ancient tsunami

Also reported on the BBC News website was an article (accessed 03 May 2009) about newly recognised evidence for a tsunami that hit the New York region of the USA about 300BC. Dr Steven Goodbred, an Earth scientist at Vanderbilt University, has assessed sedimentary deposits from more than 20 cores in New York and New Jersey that indicate some sort of violent force swept the northeast coastal region at that time. He draws parallels with the 1929 Grand Banks tsunami and the 2004 Sumatran tsunami, both of which were caused by earthquakes.



The destructive power of a tsunami can engulf marine organisms in sediment very quickly.
Image: www.sxc.hu; author unknown.

Of particular interest is the fact that the deposits he has studied contain marine fossils. This is further evidence that fossils are formed quickly, during catastrophic conditions, rather than by the slow accumulation of sediments.

What then should one make of the estimated 800 billion fossilised vertebrates in the Karoo formation in Africa, or the estimated one billion fossilised fish in just four square miles of bay bottom in the Miocene shales of California? Clearly these must have formed in one or more catastrophes of immense size and destructive power. And if so, then the “millions of years” attributed to the sediments they are found in must be a figment of the imagination.

Evolution and rhubarb

A remarkable plant that grows in the extreme conditions of the deserts of Israel was the subject of a BBC News article on 14 May 2009. *Rheum palaestinum*, a wild species of rhubarb, is the only plant in the world known to self-irrigate. Most desert plants have small leaves but this species has rosettes of very large leaves covered in a waxy cuticle and folded into deep channels. The wax helps water flow over the leaves and the channels guide the water to the plant's roots. Researchers at the University of Haifa found that plants of this species growing in the Negev desert collected on average 16 times more water than other desert plants in the region, and the gathered water penetrated ten times more deeply into the soil.

Unusually for the BBC News website, the article states, "The plant...has specially designed leaves that channel rain water to

its roots". This tacit admission of design implies a Designer, with which CSM would heartily agree! It is very difficult indeed to see how this plant species could have gradually evolved. Evolving larger leaves rather than smaller ones would be of no benefit on its own because it would lead to greater water loss through the leaves and hence would be selected against. The plant would therefore have had to simultaneously evolve the waxy cuticle to help prevent water loss. However, production of such a compound represents an energy cost to the plant and thus would also be selected against, unless there was some benefit that outweighed the cost. But such a benefit would only come about if the plant also simultaneously produced the folding of the leaf that directs water to the plant base - as opposed to any other kind of folding that would send the rainwater in the wrong direction. The plant is thus an example of irreducible complexity: it needs all three features developed at once to self-irrigate effectively. How could the species have gradually evolved these features over millennia without simply dying in the meantime? Fortunately our Maker knows how to design things extremely well. He can even make the desert bloom abundantly (Isa. 35: 1-2).

Genesis and mental gymnastics

G. K. Chesterton is famously reputed to have said that when a man stops believing in God he doesn't believe in nothing - he believes in anything. This aphorism comes very much to mind when reading of the attempts of evolutionary scientists to shoe-horn the Biblical account of Creation into compliance with evolutionary theory.

Though why they should want to spend so much of their time tampering with something which they claim is only primitive mythology anyway is beyond understanding. Unless of course they have an uncomfortable feeling that it is not myth at all but historical truth, with some implications that are rather unwelcome for their lifestyle.

The Mail Online (accessed 18 July 2009) has a review by Christopher Hart of a new book by Dr Andrew Parker entitled *The Genesis Enigma* that is the latest attempt to re-interpret Genesis. Apparently Parker had a revelation [*sic*] in the Sistine Chapel. Hart expounds enthusiastically about this: "A Biblical enigma exists that is on the one hand so cryptic it has remained camouflaged for millennia, and on the other so obvious one cannot miss it. The enigma is that the order of Creation as described in the Book of Genesis, and so powerfully depicted in the Sistine Chapel by the greatest artist of the Renaissance, has been precisely, eerily confirmed by modern evolutionary science. Yet how on earth could this be possible? And why has nobody noticed it before?"

Hart goes on with gushing admiration to outline this "confirmation" that requires a considerable degree of reinterpretation of the facts of the Genesis account as faithfully recorded by Moses. "Let there be Light" we are told is a reference to the Big Bang. Water being in place before the land appears is a recognition that water is crucial for life; and the appearance of plants on the third day is apparently an oblique reference to the supposed first photosynthesising organisms, cyanobacteria. Genesis tells us that on the fourth day God created the sun, moon and stars but this, so Hart advises us, is simply a reference to the evolution of the first light-perceiving organs, as prior to this

“...in a sense, the sun and moon didn’t exist”. Hart then tells us “The moment that there were ‘lights’, or eyes, then life exploded into all its infinite variety. And yet again, that’s what Genesis says happened...For on the very next day of Creation, the fifth day, God said ‘Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life’”. Hart equates this with the Cambrian Explosion as depicted by the fossils of the Burgess Shale.



Hart takes care to ensure that no-one has the inclination to plump for the obvious conclusion that the emergence of life must have required divine intervention. “There are different kinds of truth”, he tells us, “A novel like Anna Karenina is certainly fiction. There is not a single hard scientific or verifiable fact in it. Yet it’s one of the most profoundly true books ever written about how humans think and feel and love...I believe this relates closely to the so-called Genesis Enigma”. And so it goes on, but more will not be shared here because of the dangers of falling off a chair whilst howling with laughter.

There is however a more serious aspect to this, as Hart cannot resist taking a side-

swipe whilst engaged in his paean of evolutionary euphoria. He goes on to say, “There is no doubt that literal-minded Creationists do a disservice to the triumphant achievements of modern science, and to the beauty and poetry of the Bible. Evolution is taking place around us all the time. It’s why the MRSA superbug has become so dangerously immune to antibiotics, why the race is on to beat the swine flu virus.” This emotional rhetoric may have all the same tired old non-sequiturs and failure to recognise the difference between natural selection and Neodarwinian orthodoxy as the evolutionist camp is forever putting up, but sadly and horrifyingly Hart seems to actually believe it.

It seems appropriate therefore to conclude with another remark from Chesterton: “The ordinary scientific man is strictly a sentimentalist. He is a sentimentalist in this essential sense, that he is soaked and swept away by mere associations.”

The Genesis Enigma was published by Doubleday on 20 July 2009. CSM has no plans to stock it.

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

11 April p.12 See-through wings need springy scales to stay dry

“The mystery of how butterflies with transparent wings stay dry has been solved by new high-resolution images – and the trick of bounciness. Butterfly wings are covered in a dense array of microscopic overlapping scales that give them their remarkable colours [by refrac-



The Chestnut Tiger butterfly, *Parantica sita*.
Image: Wikipedia, released under the GNU
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tion of light] and also repel water. But the wings of some species have transparent or translucent panels...Pablo Goodwyn used electron microscopes to study the wings of the Japanese chestnut tiger butterfly, *Parantica sita*, which lives for up to six months and migrates up to 1,000 kilometres. He found that scales shaped like flattened needles cover less than half of translucent areas. But because the scales tilt about 30 degrees upwards from the wing surface, they act like springs, bouncing away water droplets that land on them.”

Darwinian theory imagines some happy accident leading to a 30° upturn of the scales, but the instructions for this construction are written precisely into the butterflies’ genes. Natural selection simply maintains that feature, along with the spacing of the scales that provides the colour, and the ability to migrate.

11 April p.21 Viewfinder

“Susan Greenfield in *Wired UK* on attempts to build a conscious machine:

“The Turin test still has not been passed though there is apparently a human being somewhere who failed it.”

18 April p.11 Sunbirds are evolving on the wing

Here is yet another example of variation being used to prop up the idea of macro-evolution.

Tree tobacco plants found in South America have yellow tubular flowers that are pollinated by the hummingbird. This little bird can hover stationary while its long beak sucks up nectar. These plants have now found their way to South Africa, but there are no hummingbirds outside of the Americas. The malachite sunbird, native to Africa, is already known to hover, and has now started to take nectar from the immigrant tree tobacco. The article offers a Just So story on how hovering evolved!

18 April p.15 It’s life, Jim, and pretty much as we know it.

“All terrestrial life forms share the same 20 amino acids. Biochemists have managed to synthesise 10 of them in experiments that simulate lifeless ‘prebiotic’ environments, using proxies for lightning, ionising radiation from space, or hydrothermal vents to provide the necessary energy. Amino acids are also found inside meteorites.”

It is argued here that if alien life exists it probably has the same 10 amino acids at its core. It is said that the process of forming the rest of the 20 amino acids dictated the evolution of the genetic code, which means that aliens would share the same biochemistry as we earthlings.

The problem that has been overlooked is that it takes an input of intelligence in order to sort out the left- and right-handed amino acids and to use only the former to make proteins. The proteins are coded for by the

genetic code that has a very specific order of nucleotides, which also requires intelligence.

If life evolved on earth, it could conceivably have done so elsewhere in the galaxy. These flights of fancy are all about suggesting that life doesn't need an intelligent Creator. The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'.

25 April p.28 A window on the past

"Stones and bones can only tell us so much, but living primates hold a wealth of untapped knowledge about what our ancestors were like." So, admittedly tools and skulls don't confirm human evolution, but if we assume it happened we can learn about what we were like by checking out chimps. Robin Dunbar of Oxford (he whose research led him to conclude that speech developed from the desire of women to gossip) is now applying what he has learned about chimps to **"our early ancestors, the australopithecines."** This article is pure conjecture, and uses phrases such as **"educated guesses/ it seems unlikely that/ may be/ a more radical suggestion is that australopithecines might have been able to/ generally thought to have taken place later in human evolution."** Science it ain't.

25 April p.36 Where is all the antimatter?

"According to the theory, matter and antimatter were created in equal amounts at the Big Bang. By rights they should have annihilated each other totally in the first second or so of the universe's existence. The cosmos should be full of light and little else.

And yet here we are. So too are planets, stars and galaxies; all, as far as we can see, made exclusively out of matter. Reality 1, theory 0."

Two possible explanations are put forward. Maybe antimatter decays more quickly, and an expensive experiment using the presently out-of-order Large Hadron Collider may confirm this. Such an effect, however, would seem too small to explain large scale asymmetry. Or maybe some of the initial antimatter from the big bang managed to escape. **"Somewhere out there, in some mirror region of the cosmos, antimatter is lurking and has coalesced into anti-stars, anti-galaxies and maybe even anti-life."**

A third possible explanation, not considered here, is that there never was a big bang. Antimatter can be made on an atomic scale in equipment such as the LHC, but guessing that half the universe may be made of antimatter, or any other dreamt-up material such as cold dark matter or dark energy, isn't science either.

For further information on the many problems with the Big Bang theory, see CSM pamphlets nos. 317 and 356.

2 May p.10 Intelligent design of domestic breeds

"They may not have known about genes and Darwinism, but our ancestors knew how to drive the evolution of once-wild beasts to serve their own needs.

"There are several areas of the [cow] genome you can see that clearly differentiate between beef breeds and dairy breeds."

Here we see the confusion between 'variation within a kind' and alleged 'macro-evolution'. Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species* talked of finch beaks varying with the environment. This is a reversible process. No new genes are created, but alleles that best suit the prevailing food or other conditions are selected for. By contrast, alleged macroevolution, such as a fish becoming an amphibian or a rep-



Though they have plenty of variation in their genome, cows remain cows. There is no evidence whatsoever that they are changing into some other kind of creature. Image: CSM.

tile turning into a bird, would require the creation of new, precisely ordered genes carrying information. That information can arise by chance is an unscientific hypothesis.

2 May p.20 For super-tough spider silk, just add titanium

“Spider silk is already one of the toughest fibres known, and now it can be made even more resilient with an injection of metal. By infiltrating the protein structure of the silk, the metal makes each strand 10 times as hard to snap...The inspiration comes from the many creatures that have tissues in jaws, stingers and claws strengthened and stiffened by metals. For instance, the mandibles of leaf-cutter ants and locusts are peppered with zinc, and some marine worms have copper in the protein matrix that makes up their jaws.”

Here is another example of man learning from the Creator.

2 May p.24 Letters –How science works

Congratulations to CSM member Thomas Shipp of Devon who this week had his letter published in *New Scientist* arguing that to exclude all but material causes from science is unscientific. He concludes - **“Metaphysical materialism is neither logical, nor based on any scientific methods, nor even rational, so it seems strange that it should be judged regulative for science. Limiting science to atheistic explanations is indeed anti-scientific, since it predetermines its outcomes before doing the science itself.”**

2 May p.38 The mother of us all

“Yet we still know surprisingly little about the origin of multicellular animals. [He means we know absolutely nothing!] ‘The different branches of the animal tree evolved [assumption] very rapidly in a short period, a long time ago.’...The very first animals left few fossil traces. What they did leave were lots of descendants [another assumption].”

Scientists are comparing the genes of living organisms to work out what they hope is a family tree. By comparing the sequences of seven genes from 42 species, using ‘sophisticated computer programs’ [rubbish in – rubbish out] they think they have the most likely evolutionary tree of multicellular animals. At the root is a bath sponge. They say they wish they had a time machine to go back and see for themselves, but their computer methods are just as much ‘science fiction’. **“Other research teams, using similar analyses but an alternative selection of species and different DNA sequences, have fingered other animal groups as most resembling the ancestor.”** One result was like a modern-day animal, a placozoan!

9 May p.15 A bit of dinosaur in the modern world

“Dinosaur proteins have been recovered from a bone that had been encased in sandstone for 80 million years.”

Two years ago, Mary Schweitzer, an American fossil expert had hit the headlines when her team found blood cells and other soft tissue such as collagen in a T-rex leg bone. Others couldn't repeat this.

“This time, Schweitzer and John Asaro of Harvard Medical School in Boston analysed the pristine leg bone of a plant-eating hadrosaur and again found proteins. They sequenced the proteins with a more advanced mass spectrometer and sent the samples to two other labs for verification. The teams say they have recovered not just collagen, but also haemoglobin, elastin and laminin.

These bio-molecules could hardly survive for 80 million years, and some have suggested that the pristine bone, encased in sandstone, has been subject to contamination by modern material.

16 May p.13 With the right recipe, early life's a cinch

RNA is a single stranded polynucleotide whose precise sequence of four constituent

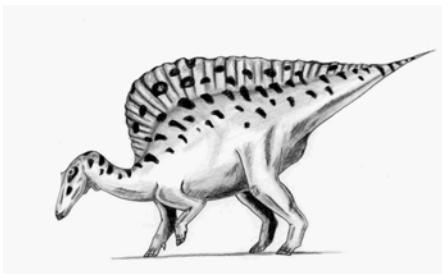
bases is used by the living cell to transfer information from the double stranded DNA within the nucleus to manufacture proteins with a precise sequence of amino acids. Because RNA is less complex than DNA, evolutionists wishing to demonstrate how life might have arisen by natural means have suggested that RNA may have arisen by chance. Up until now, they have been unable to get the phosphate, bases and ribose (sugar) to join together to make RNA. This report tells of a new recipe that enables chemists to make RNA relatively easily, even possibly by chance.

Of course, in the living cell, RNA is assembled with the cooperation of several bio-molecules. The products are all pure, and impurities would react with constituents to give a tarry mess. However, the main difficulty for these wishful thinkers is that a precise sequence of bases in RNA carries the information to make the precise sequence of amino acids in the protein it produces. The chances of getting the order right for even a moderately short protein string are infinitesimal without an input of information. Moreover, living things require a multitude of different proteins, not to mention DNA.

16 May p.28 The crowded planet

This is an interview with the veteran TV naturalist David Attenborough, who would like to see the numbers of humans on earth controlled in some way.

“While Attenborough has no truck with those who attribute the wonders of nature to a creator, he is reluctant to call himself an atheist. ‘I’m not, because, with due respect to Richard Dawkins who is a friend and who I admire, that doesn’t seem to me a scientific statement. Often when I open a termite’s nest and see thousands of blind organisms working away that lack the sense mechanism



Artist's impression of a hadrosaur, *Ouranosaurus nigeriensis*. Image: A. Weasley, Wikipedia, under GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2.

to see me, I can't help thinking maybe there's a sense mechanism I'm missing, that there's someone around who created this. We cannot discount that. But I don't know."

This good man, who has given pleasure to millions as he has illustrated the wonders of the Creation, again speaks of the parasitic worm that is boring into the eye of an African boy. Scripture tells us that when God saw all that He had created and made He pronounced it very good. It is man's sin that led to the bondage of decay.

23 May p.5 Primate ancestor

The media has made a big thing of the discovery of Ida, a **"47-million-year-old primate fossil [that] could be the common ancestor of monkeys and apes, including humans."** A BBC programme with David Attenborough will be devoted to it. However, many scientists are less than happy with the hyped conclusion (see www.csm.org.uk/news). Evidently the *New Scientist* isn't too sure as it gives the item a mere two narrow column inches. See also the follow-up items below.

23 May p.24 Track down the truth

Here is a letter from famous ape-man fossil hunter Richard Leakey critical of the *New Scientist* report of 7th March that we featured in the June issue of *Creation* journal. Leakey doubts the evidence that the fossil footprints were made by *Homo erectus*. He suggests that fossil bone anatomy is a more certain line of evidence. **"An almost complete set of foot bones, known as OH8, dated to 1.8 million years ago – and therefore pre-dating *H. erectus* – were discovered in 1961 in Tanzania. This set shows remarkable features similar to our own feet today."**

These two items from May 23 illustrate the state of disarray of research in this pseudo-

field. The dates, of course, are based on wrong assumptions. Fossil man's feet and his prints (running through falling volcanic ash) are no different from our own feet and footprints. Evolutionists are out of step with the truth.

30 May p.3 Overselling Ida

Ida is the name given to a lemur-like fossil claimed to be man's earliest ancestor. In this Darwin200 year, the media hype has been generally condemned. **"It's a shame when demands of the media overshadow those of science. The closely managed razzmatazz that accompanied the debut of Ida – the fossil 'that could change everything' about our ancestry – ensured that everyone was talking about her for a day or two... By the time doubts about Ida's role in our past emerged, the circus had moved on."**

True science doesn't need these extravagant claims – facts will speak for themselves.

30 May p.5 Historic axe re-found

"Archaeologists have unearthed a 400,000-year-old flint hand axe that went missing in the Natural History Museum, London, 150 years ago. It was originally found in a French quarry and displayed at the Royal Society in 1859, destroying creationists' claim that the world was only 10,000 years old."

Since the flint axe won't have had a maker's date stamp, the 400,000 must be an estimate that depended on assumptions. Anti-creationist propaganda was rife then as now.

6 June p.25 The father of Ida

This is a short interview with the palaeontologist who found and publicized the lemur fossil called Ida. Before being reported in the scientific literature, the *History* TV

channel screened a documentary claiming that Ida was ‘**the biggest find in 47 million years ... this will change everything**’, and a price of £1m was put on it.

The interviewer asks “**What about the creationists who are using the reaction against your paper as ammunition against evolutionary biologists?**” But it is not just creationists who are critical of such dubious tactics.

13 June p.17 Radio chip mimics human ear

“A computer chip modelled on the human ear could be used in universal receivers for radio-frequency signals ranging from cell-phone and wireless internet transmissions to radio and television broadcasts.”

Rather than the narrow frequency band of traditional devices, this can process frequencies from 600 megahertz to 8 gigahertz. MIT researchers mimicked the human ear’s mechanism within a chip that creates an electromagnetic wave that activates a network of transistors that act like hair cells in the inner ear to reveal the wave’s frequency.

The Massachusetts boffins used their intelligence to design this clever piece of hardware. Yet evolutionists would claim that the ear on which it was modelled was the product of chance and natural selection over time, rather than ID.

The Psalmist (94:9) speaks of God planting the ear, and forming the eye.

20 June p.6 Are oranges our nearest relatives?

“Despite the similarity of the chimp genome to ours, a controversial paper claims a different ape as our cousin.

“The idea flies in the face of mainstream scientific opinion, not least a wealth of DNA evidence pointing to our close rela-



Orang-utan in a zoo. Our closest relative?
Only if the Bible isn't true!
Image: Focus, used under licence.

tionship to chimps.” The new paper argues that **“the DNA evidence is problematic and that traditional taxonomy unequivocally tells us that our closest living relatives are orang-utans.”** (Dr Patrick Gill, FRCR has pointed out that there is a mismatch between humans and chimpanzees of 30 million units per cell – an unbridgeable chasm.)

The features humans share with orang-utans include anatomy, reproductive biology and behaviour. Both species have thick tooth enamel, long hair, concealed ovulation, etc.

The *New Scientist*, as ever, is fearful of what capital creationists will make of all this. In the editorial on p.3 it complains:

“One possible outcome, though, is that creationists will trump the paper as evidence that the theory of evolution is crumbling. If the experts themselves cannot get their story straight, they will crow, why should we believe anything they say?

“That, of course, is shameless intellectual dishonesty (though what else would you expect from a movement built on intellectual dishonesty?)

We would point out that from Piltdown Man to Ida, it is the ‘experts’ who have been rather less than straightforward, and who behave, in the Editor’s words, like a **“bunch of religious fanatics”**.

27 June p.7 Stone Age vulture flute

“The discovery of a 22-centimetre-long flute made from the radius bone of a griffon vulture has pushed back the origins of music by 5000 years, to the middle Stone Age. The flute was found at the Hohle Fels caves in southern Germany and sports five holes for the fingers.”

Pre-Flood Jubal (eighth from Adam, Gen. 4:21) was the father of such as handle the harp and organ. Music is a creative activity made possible because Jubal and the rest of us were made in the image of the Creator. We don’t hear of Kanza the chimp’s fifth symphony!

Creationists would place the Stone Age as following the Flood and Ice Age.

4 July p.7 Worldwide creationism

“A British Council poll of 10,000 people in 10 countries has revealed that creationism is strongest in the US, South Africa and India, with 43 per cent in each country agreeing that God created life in its present form. Almost a quarter of Londoners are creationists, according to the poll presented at the World Conference of Science Journalists in London on Tuesday.”

4 July p.22 Return of the race myth

“As the 20th-century world recoiled from the horrors of Nazi Germany and the eugenics movement, we learned how economic, political and social choices produced the racial differences that science [that is, evolutionary thinking] had once claimed to be ‘natural’. Race came to be recognised as a social construct – an

aspect of social choices rather than a reflection of biological differences between racial groups.”

Although the DNA of all ethnic groups is more than 99 per cent alike, some of the differences found in the one per cent can be related to ethnic types. However, there are no genetic variations exclusive to any racial group. Some are more common in certain populations, but their distribution does not align with social categories of race. Eve is the mother of us all. In Athens, Paul reminded his listeners that the Lord of heaven and earth has made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the earth, and has determined the times and bounds of their territories.

11 July p.30 Why the moon still matters

On the 40th anniversary of the Apollo moon landings this article considers the hundreds of kilograms of moon rock brought back for analysis.

“Another surprise was that the rocks from the moon’s largest craters show that all the craters are roughly the same age, roughly 3.8 to 4 billion years ago.



Terraced wall crater on the lunar limb.
Image: B. Offenheim, NASA

It's unlikely that this could be a coincidence... Curiously, this episode in the solar system's history, which has come to be known as the late heavy bombardment, ended at about the same time as the first signs of life appeared on Earth." One could speculate that the brief period of intensive bombardment gave rise to the Flood. Fossil life on Earth (where else!) was laid down during and after this cataclysm.

18 July p.7 Stem cells from blood
"Cells capable of maturing into any tissue in the body have been made for the first time from blood, claims Cellular Dynamics International of Madison, Wisconsin. The company says it made the induced pluripotent stem cells by treating white blood cells with reprogramming factors previously used to make IPS cells from less accessible tissues."

The ethical advantage of this result is that they do not destroy human embryos to acquire the stem cells.

18 July p.11 Did great balls of fire spurt forth the seeds of Earth?

The Solar Nebular Theory had it that we started out, 4.6my ago oh my best beloved, as a great placid cloud of dust, with kinetic energy and gravity competing to finally make the Sun and planets. Here it is suggested that asteroid-sized balls of magma hurtling through space and colliding together, spurted out raw material that formed Earth and its rocky siblings.

These theories are mutually exclusive. Each is guess-work. It is true that glassy beads are found on Earth, but only in the top-most sedimentary layers. Fiery bombardment must have occurred well after the solar system was up and running (as witness the asteroid belt and lunar craters) but the inner structure of Earth, with the dense

metals towards the centre, makes this latest idea less feasible. Could it be that in the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth much as they are today?

25 July p.12 Fathers aren't dispensable yet

Following the news that scientists have produced human sperm in the lab, some have suggested that males are now an optional extra. But biochemical evidence in mice and men suggests that fathers may play a key role in rearing of offspring.

"Previous studies have hinted at the importance of fathers in child-rearing. Some have shown that girls reach puberty younger, become sexually active earlier and are more likely to get pregnant in their teens if their father was absent when they were young. Others have suggested that the sons of absent fathers display lower intimacy and self-esteem."

Mice are monogamous and tend to rear their offspring together. Researchers deprived mouse pups of their fathers and then studied the activity of brain cells in response to the hormone oxytocin and other neurotransmitters, including serotonin, dopamine and NMDA. **"Cells in pups deprived of fathers had a blunted response to oxytocin – the cuddle chemical, which is normally released during social interactions and pair bonding. The fatherless mice were also less interested in engaging with other mice."**

In Israel, 80 couples were visited shortly after childbirth and again after six months. It was found that the transition to parenthood was associated with increased oxytocin not only in mothers but also in fathers, compared with single, childless people. It is concluded that fathers may be biologically programmed to help raise children. **"Fathers and mothers contribute in a**

very specific and different way to infants' social and emotional development".

Adventures with CSM at St Andrews

We didn't go to St Andrews to play golf but to challenge the students' trust in evolution theory. By our eighth invitation we had got to know our way round the town and the way to the beautiful coastal path beside the North Sea. We often recall a visit in 1989 when we were disappointed by a small attendance. David spoke from Acts 17 where Paul preaches about the God who made the world and everything in it. At the end the hall emptied except for four different coloured students who came up shyly to check on what David had said. "Does the verse about all mankind being of one blood mean that all men are equal?" they asked. Much hung for them on the answer. "Oh yes, everyone is created in God's image." At this they seemed to take a leap in the air. Back home in Africa they had been considered second class citizens and less highly evolved. They certainly danced their way out on cloud nine. It was unforgettable to see.

On our most recent visit to St Andrews in May 2005, David was asked to face some 50 evolutionists in an open debate at the Café Scientifique in Market Street. Some lost their cool when their favourite stance was challenged and countered with good scientific reasons for Creation, but there was generous applause when the debate drew to a close. On the previous day we had held a meeting at Holy Trinity Church (built ca. 1120AD). During the lecture a young couple walked in and after the question and answer session the man asked if he

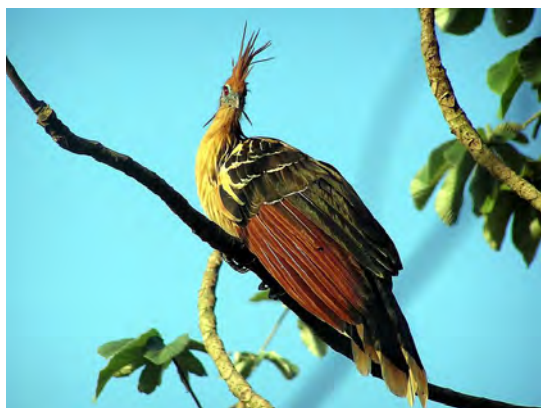
might say something. He told us that they were at St Andrews on a short holiday and noticed David's name on the poster outside. They said that several years earlier they had come to Carrubbers Church in Edinburgh to hear David speak on Genesis chapter one. The Lord opened their eyes and they were gloriously converted to Himself from the American cult they were in thrall to. He told us they were now pastoring a church. What an encouragement for us! It is a long way to St Andrews and we always had good meetings there, but such encouragement as we felt after these two incidents in particular made it all very worthwhile.

JR

Why I don't believe Darwin

As a committed "anti-evolutionist," I looked forward with interest to the recent programme by Sir David Attenborough entitled *Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life*. I thought it started off very well, but as soon as it got to the actual nitty-gritty about evolution, it degenerated into the evolutionists' usual list of unwarranted and unprovable assertions.

For example, in trying to explain how a complex structure such as the human eye could have 'evolved' by random mutations and natural selection, he quoted the examples of three or four different creatures with much simpler kinds of eye. But he conveniently overlooked the fact that there is no observable evolutionary link between any of these creatures and us. Also, he cited the fossil *Archaeopteryx* and the still-living hoatzin as examples of transitional forms between reptiles and birds. But in truth these creatures are stand-



The hoatzin - no evidence for Evolution!
Image: L. De Volder, Wikipedia, under GNU
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alone oddities with no known antecedents or descendents, so they cannot support the argument for natural selection by means of random genetic mutation.

As in another recent programme by the evolutionist Armand Marie Leroi, Attenborough confused evolution with sub-specific variation, as found in the many different kinds (good biblical word) of Galapagos finches. Of course, the whole business of speciation is very puzzling. For example, mules and hinnies (i.e., crosses between horses and donkeys) are usually sterile, as are most other hybrids. This suggests to me that nature tries very hard to keep the different species separate. On the other hand, fertile hybrids occur between wolves, dingoes, jackals and domestic dogs. So maybe it would be more accurate to call these creatures variations of the same species, just as Japanese, Asian, African and European men are all variants of *Homo sapiens*.

At the end of the programme there was a long list of unsubstantiated claims, such as,

"One branch of the elephant family took to the water and became a sea cow." Presumably this statement is based on perceived similarities between certain anatomical structures and/or the DNA of the two creatures, But similarity (homology) is not an absolute indication of a common ancestry. (According to *New Scientist* magazine (1 July 2000) humans share half their genes with the banana. So does this mean we are half banana or that the banana is half human?)

All in all, I was disappointed that there was nothing new in the Attenborough programme. But what is most galling is that both Attenborough and his atheist/evolutionist colleague Richard Dawkins loudly insist that evolution is an undeniable fact. On the strength of this programme I would say it is still a very unconvincing theory.

John Buck

Quotes

"The Bible is the clearest sign that humans have been created in the image and likeness of God because it shows that the deity's chosen medium is one through which only humans can communicate. Even when we seek knowledge of nature, we credit our understanding only when it can be expressed in language, and increasingly - as with modern genetics - as a language."

Steve Fuller

"Science is wonderfully equipped to answer the question "How?" but it gets terribly confused when you ask the question "Why?""

Erwin Chargaff

Letters

“We had an excellent meeting yesterday at St Albans invited through CSM by John Hopkinson.

The hall was packed with around 150 people; more than half were young people from the meeting as well as other schools and a local university where the lecture was advertised.

The lecture was followed by half an hour of questions and another hour mingling with people and answering questions. The comments were very encouraging, especially from young people who normally do not comment.

I preached the Gospel at the end as I normally do and trust that the Lord will bless what was done for His glory.”

FAR, 18 May 2009



Meeting

How Should Science Deal With Creationism?

24th September 2009.

Meet at SEARCH at 6.30pm to view the *Darwin Today* exhibition before joining our panellists at 7.30pm at The Discovery Centre, Gosport, Hants, who will be discussing whether evolution and creationist teachings can co-exist. Panellists will include Professor Michael Reiss, Professor of Science Education at University of London, Dr Simon Kolstoe from UCL College of Medicine and Dr David Rosevear from the Creation Science Movement. The debate will be chaired by BBC Radio 4's Sue Broom. Audience participation is encouraged!

Places are free but must be pre-booked by calling SEARCH on 0845 603 5635 from Wednesday 2nd September 2009.

Gemma Waters, Natural Sciences Education Officer, SEARCH Museum, 50 Clarence Road, Gosport, Hants PO12 1BU.

Articles in the Journal are generally by the editor, R. Cambridge, unless otherwise stated. Articles, letters, notes and other contributions from new writers are warmly welcome.

Creation Science Movement

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